



GREATER IDAHO FALLS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Independence Day Parade
Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Rules and Guidelines

General Entry Rules

1. All entries must be decorated around the parade theme: **“Guardians of Freedom”**
2. Floats will consist of a fully decorated trailer (decorated according to parade theme) pulled by a vehicle (truck, SUV, semi-truck). Exceptions: Dignitaries, cheerleading/dance/walking teams, equestrian entries, and city vehicles (fire trucks, police cars).
3. All pulling vehicles must be in good working condition and capable of towing your float to the parade staging area, during the parade and after the parade.
4. For safety, no 4-wheelers, golf carts, motorcycles, UTV's, or other off-road vehicles are permitted in the parade unless authorized by the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce parade committee.
5. For line-up and spacing purposes, only one motor vehicle per application is permitted. For example, high school floats MUST have separate entries for cheer, band, drill team, etc. Please note that measurements and spacing of the floats is done the evening before based on the truck/trailer measurements you entered in your original application. If you arrive the morning of the parade with an additional float or vehicle, you will be asked to leave the staging area.
6. VIPs are encouraged to be on a decorated float or in a pre-approved vehicle. The individual is responsible for obtaining their own vehicle unless other arrangements have been made with the parade committee.
7. The American Flag has very specific rules for display. Please visit the following link to make sure you show proper respect for the flag and what it stands for: <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html>
8. This is an “all forward motion” parade. Performing groups should choreograph routines to maintain forward motion at the parade pace.
9. If your float has a sound system, speakers, band, noisy generator or other loud noise when you arrive for the parade, and you did not indicate such in the application, you may be asked to cease the noise. We do NOT want to place your entry next to another entry with music, loud noise, or next to an entry with animals.
10. Please play patriotic music.

Safety Rules

1. Candy and/or giveaways *SHALL NOT* be thrown from any entry. Candy and/or giveaways must be passed out by hand.
2. Riders are not to jump on and off of your entry during the parade.
3. Water balloons, water cannons, and/or the dragging of anything from an entry will not be allowed.
4. All entries must have a fire extinguisher on board.
5. No alcohol/liquor on board parade floats.

6. Only vehicles entered into the parade will be allowed into the staging area. (Pickups, cars, golf carts, ATV's, etc. with additional decorations or equipment may not enter the lineup area.) Additional materials may be carried in by hand. *Unnecessary vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.*
7. All vehicles must be in good mechanical repair, road worthy (including the tires), adequately insured, and driven by a licensed driver.
8. A person with a key to the entry and able to move the entry if needed must be present at all times in the lineup area.
9. We need 3-4 volunteers to bring jumper cables. If you would like to volunteer to bring jumper cables, please contact programs@idahofallschamber.com.
10. In the event of an emergency, all entries will move as far right as possible and stop to allow emergency vehicles to pass.
11. The parade route is 2.4 miles long, with very little shade. Please have plenty of water on hand for your group.
12. Any persons walking with your entry must be capable of walking the full length of the parade route without difficulty.

Float Decoration

1. All floats should be constructed and decorated to ensure that viewing from either side is equally appealing.
2. All trailers must be skirted.
3. Entries will not be allowed in the parade if it does not follow the theme and/or is not decorated.

Parade Day Instructions

Float Check-In:

- You will be allowed into the lineup area as early as 6 a.m. on Tuesday, July 4th. All entries MUST be lined up and ready to go by 7:30 a.m. as judging will begin promptly at that time.
- Enter the lineup area at the corner of Holmes Ave and John Adams Parkway.
- Equestrian entries will enter the staging area (north parking lot in the Bowl-ero shopping center) from First Street.
- Let your driver know what your lineup number is and your company/organization name.
- A volunteer will give you a number upon entry into the lineup area. Affix the number to the center front bumper of the towing vehicle as soon as you are parked (remember to bring tape!). Your spot will be spray painted on the road with your number so that you know exactly where you are located.
- The only vehicles allowed in the lineup area are those that are in the parade or towing a float – ABSOLUTELY NO vehicles will be allowed in to drop people or supplies off.

People Check-In:

- Drop individuals off at the corner of John Adams Parkway & Tiger Avenue. (Holmes is very busy that morning and NOT the location to drop people off at).
- No parking is allowed in the lineup area: 3rd Street, 4th Street, or John Adams Parkway.
- Unless performing in a group that will be judged starting at 7:30 a.m., float participants (particularly children) do not need to be at the line-up area until 7:30-8 a.m.
- **As the primary contact person, it is your responsibility to share this information with all individuals participating on your float.**

Judging

- Judging begins promptly at 7:30 a.m. NO judging will take place during the parade. A judge will approach you and introduce themselves. If performing, please have your groups ready to perform by 7:30 a.m.
- Marching Bands: Be prepared to perform one song, marching in place, at your lineup location. If you need to move to the center of the street, you are welcome to do so.
- Dance/Cheer teams: Be prepared to perform one routine at your lineup location. If you need to move to the center of the street, you are welcome to do so.
- ALL trophies will be awarded to the winners before the parade begins.

Floats are judged based on the following:

- **Originality:** This category judges the overall creativity and originality in the float design and concept.
- **Craftsmanship:** This category judges the quality and complexity of the float's workmanship.
- **Entertainment Value:** This category judges the float's "wow factor." Judges will consider the elements such as color, sound, and motion. Costumes of participants riding, walking or dancing with the float will also be considered.
- **Interpretation of the Theme:** This category judges the float's interpretation of the theme.
- **Patriotism:** Patriotism is defined as one's love of and devotion to one's country. The float will be judged for patriotic theme, color, and subject matter.

Dance/Cheer teams are judged based on the following:

- **Flow of Routine:** Routine moves smoothly from one segment to the next.
- **Transitions/Formations/Spacing:** Routine progresses uniformly from one segment to the next avoiding bumping and unnecessary crossing.
- **Overall Appeal:** Impression that the judge is left with after the routine is completed. Judges must consider all skills performed, the execution and how they are presented.
- **Expression/Enthusiasm:** Smiles, spirit, naturalness, showmanship maintained throughout the entire routine.

Award Categories

Best Use of Theme
Best School
Best Band
Best Dance
Most Entertaining
Originality
Best Church Float
Best Commercial Float

Parade Begins

- **8:35 a.m.:** Classic Car Show starts
- **8:45 a.m.:** IF Exchange Club/Riverbend Communications distribution of flags and IF Magazine Parade Guides
- **9:00 a.m.:** Official parade begins
- Once the parade begins, be prepared to move as soon as your turn comes. If an entry holds up the parade flow for any reason as soon as it begins, the Chamber of Commerce Parade Committee reserves the right to refuse admission to that entry the following year.

Exiting the Parade Route

- Marching bands, people on foot, and horses will finish by turning down Rogers Street into Tautphaus Park.
- ALL floats and vehicles will continue past Tautphaus, cross Sunnyside, turn right at Cobblestone and end at Sunnyside Elementary School before offloading passengers. Children can be picked up at Sunnyside Elementary School. You are responsible for instructing all parents with this information.

Additional Information

Port-a-potties: Please instruct parents, instructors, etc. to take their children to the restroom BEFORE they get to the parade lineup area. We will have port-a-potties located in the following locations:

- 1 @ HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY
- 1 @ AQUATIC CENTER
- 2 @ 10TH BY YMCA IN PARK ON BLVD
- 4 @ FREEMAN AND 4TH
- 6 @ IFHS BY FOOTBALL FIELD
- 1 @ SOUTH BLVD AND TAUPHAUS
- 3 @ TAUPHAUS PARK

Reminders

- Wear sunscreen
- Bring plenty of water
- Communicate instructions & information with all involved
- Have patience
- Respect other entries, judges, volunteers, staff & security
- Most importantly, have fun and remember the reason we celebrate the 4th of July!